

# Town of Menasha Police Department

# THE WATCH

Summer 2014



# Summertime Fun!



**The Watch** is published quarterly by the Town of Menasha Police Department as a community outreach effort with information on crime prevention and department activities.

The community is encouraged to submit questions and story ideas by contacting Community Liaison Officer Jason Weber at [jweber@town-menasha.com](mailto:jweber@town-menasha.com) or (920)720-7109

Rod McCants, Chief of Police

Stay connected with us



You Tube



nixle

## SUMMERTIME....*FINALLY!*

After such a cold and snowy winter, we are finally enjoying the long anticipated arrival of summer, however with that; we start to see a rise in police calls and particularly property crimes. We all start to open our windows and patio doors to let the breeze in and may also be leaving our vehicles outside. However, in our attempts to enjoy the weather, we tend to forget to lock our homes and vehicles.

***Between May and October of last year, the Town of Menasha experienced 150 thefts, burglaries and damage to property complaints, with losses valued at close to \$50,000!***

Please take the time to make sure your garage door and homes are secure before leaving or "turning in for the night." We tend to see a rash of vandalism occur and encourage people to report suspicious activity as it happens.

That leads into a common question, **"What is suspicious?"** Suspicious activity is anything that is out of the norm for the neighborhood. Not all people that are acting suspiciously are criminals, but by reporting suspicious activity, you can effectively reduce the opportunity for a crime to be committed. This puts the criminal on notice that the neighborhood is watching and it also provides the police with a list of potential suspects if a crime is committed.

Many people feel funny about calling the police. Some of the reasons that are given include: I didn't want to bother the police; my problem is not that important; or I already called twice and they must think I am crazy. None of these are true. Police officers are assigned to patrol a particular area and are generally no more than five minutes away. Your calls are important and without your calls, the police cannot deal with crime in your area.





## TRANSIENT MERCHANTS

Another sign of summer is the door to door sales that occur in our neighborhoods. Presently, the US Census has canvassers out across the country making contact with residents and updating census records. Like many other communities across the country, the Town of Menasha has an ordinance addressing transient merchants.

A **transient merchant** is defined as any peddler, solicitor, or any person who temporarily engages in the retail sale of goods, wares, or merchandise.



However there are a few **exceptions** such as: newspaper, fuel, dairy, and bakery deliveries to regular customers; agricultural products sold by the grower; and any charitable organization such as Boy/Girl Scouts, schools, etc.

Further **regulations** include, but not limited to:

- Hours of sales from 9am to 7pm.
- Cannot block roadway or sidewalks.
- Cannot make any loud noises or use any sound amplifying devices to attract customers.
- Must wear name tag and have town license at all times.

Merchants must obtain a license from the Town of Menasha that includes an application process, records check and ultimately approval by the Town Board.

At the present time we have the following businesses that have transient merchant permits:

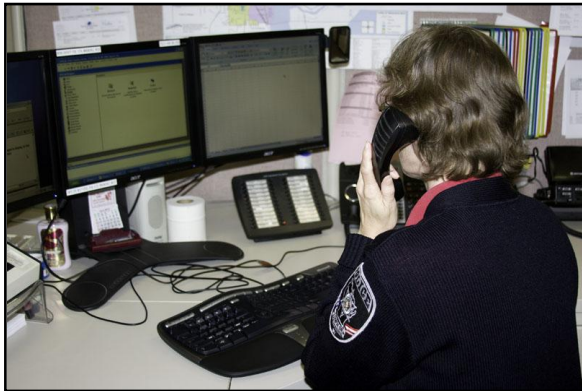
- Tundraland
- Kona Ice
- Tru Green Lawn Care
- Remodeling Estimates
- Tasty Treats

If any other solicitors come to your home offering items for sale, please contact the police department. Also, if any licensed sales people refuse to leave your property or give you cause for concern, feel free to contact the police department.



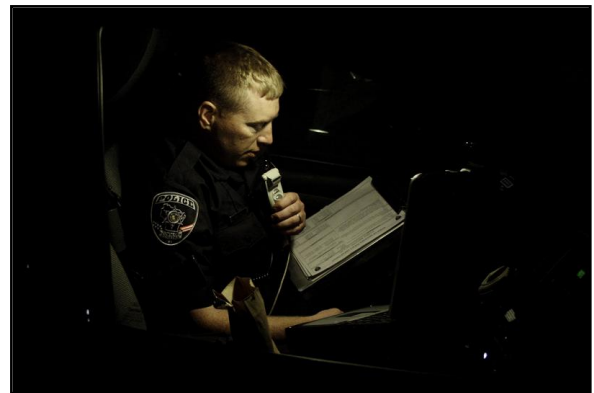
## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – *COMMUNICATION & RECORDS*

The Town of Menasha Police Department's Communication and Records Division serves the citizens in a variety of ways. This division is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This division is generally the first point of contact the public has with the police department. Communication technicians are those employees who receive the public's phone calls and greet those that come into the lobby.



In addition to serving the citizens of the Town of Menasha, the Communications and Records Division provides support to our sworn personnel. The division monitors cameras placed in and around the municipal complex, and routinely provides searches of Federal, State, and local databases to assist officers with locating information that is pertinent to their cases and investigations.

In addition to searching these databases, the Communications and Records Division is responsible for maintaining the information that is entered into these systems. Information is entered into local, State, and Federal databases, and must be done so in accordance with various laws and system regulations. These entries include missing persons, stolen and recovered articles and vehicles, and arrest warrants. In order to ensure a high standard of accuracy, routine audits are conducted on these systems.



The Communications and Records Division is also responsible for typing all of the officers' dictated reports. Any incident that involves an officer's response and investigation typically will require that officer to dictate a report. These reports are then filed electronically and any attachments are filed in cabinets.

*Each year our communications and records division answers over 25,000 phone calls, assists over 5,000 people that come into the lobby and types close to 40,000 pages of reports!*

**SUMMER SAFETY NIGHT**

**THURSDAY - JULY 17, 2014 4:30PM-7:00PM**



**POLICE & FIRE SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION DEMOS**

**HOME DEPOT ACTIVITIES**

**"TOUCH A TRUCK"**

**INFLATABLES & KIDS GAMES**

**BALLOON ANIMALS & FACE PAINTING**

**FREE BIKE HELMETS**

**BRATS, HOT DOGS, NACHOS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**TOWN OF MENASHA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX (2000 MUNICIPAL DRIVE)**

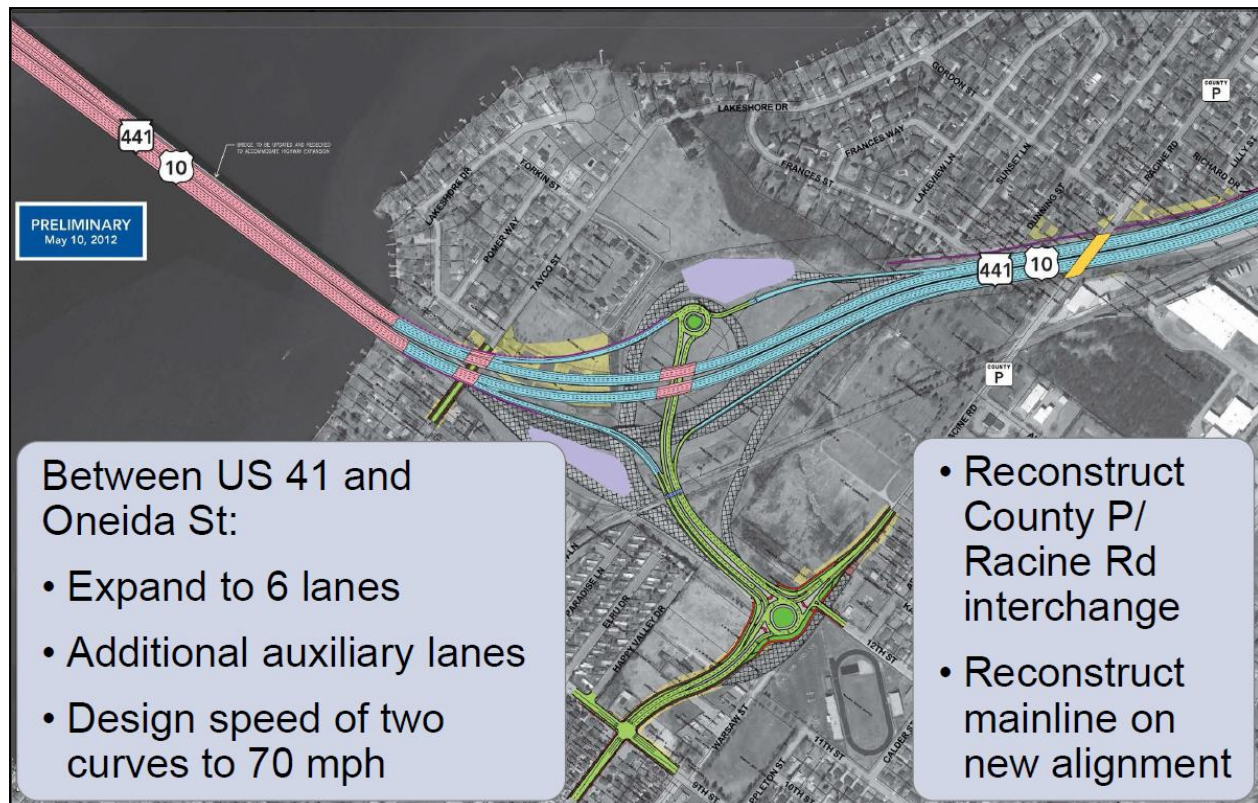


## USH 41/STH 441 CONSTRUCTION

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has developed plans to reconstruct the US 10/STH 441 freeway. This project will reconstruct and expand the highway from four lanes to six lanes between Cold Spring Rd. to about ½ mile east of S. Oneida St.. This is a total of approximately 6 miles of highway. In addition to this project, the interchange of 441/41 will be reconstructed to include access to all directions of both highways, a twice as large 441 bridge and the straightening of the curves in the area of Racine St. and Midway Rd.

To the chagrin of a few, we will also see roundabouts at Racine St./441 and Appleton Rd./441. The project will also include a new concept called a diverging diamond to the area at S. Oneida St./441.

The next two pages highlight some of the changes. [Click here for the website dedicated to the project.](#)



## USH 41/STH 441 CONSTRUCTION

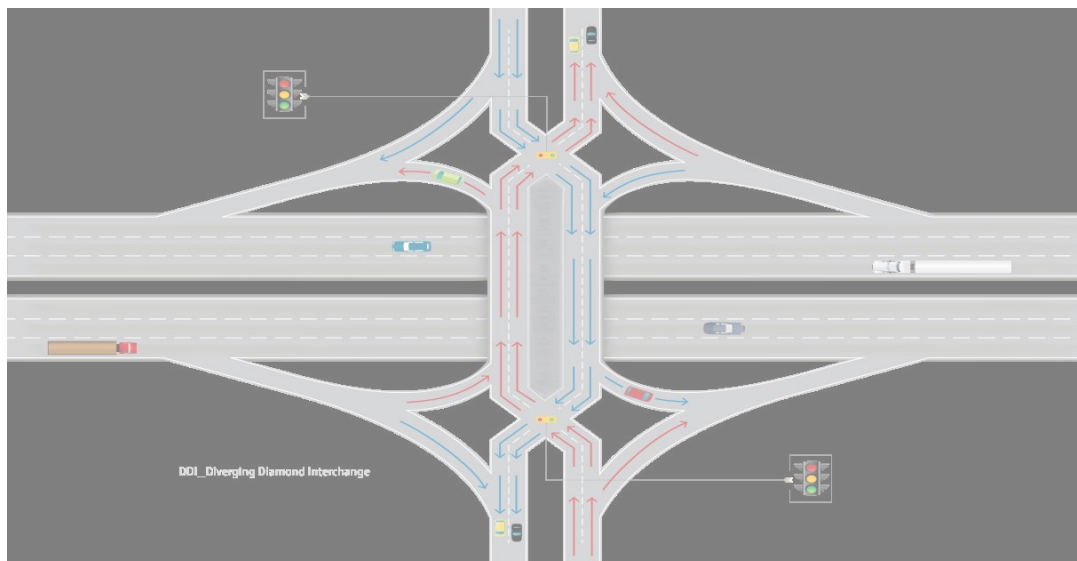
Current



New



Diverging Diamond Interchange





## HEROES IN OUR MIDST

### ***TMPD officer recognized for life saving actions***

Officer Michael Weinberger was recognized with a Certificate of Merit by the Wisconsin Professional Police Association at the group's 82<sup>nd</sup> annual convention in Wisconsin Dells for a life saving incident last summer.

On July 9, 2013 at 2:29AM, the Winnebago County 911 center received a Linked to Life alert of a fire at a residence in the 2500 block of Southwood Drive. Officer Weinberger happened to be on patrol a few blocks away from the residence and arrived within a minute of the call. Smoke was coming from the home and he could see flames inside of the residence. At the time it was believed that the homeowner was still inside. Officer Weinberger was able to enter the home and located the resident inside. Shortly after getting her outside, oxygen tanks inside of the home began to explode. Had it not been for the quick response and actions of Officer Weinberger, the resident certainly would have suffered serious injuries and potentially been a fatal fire.



### ***Young girl receives Yell & Tell hero award***

For the past four years, we have been teaching the Yell & Tell program at Spring Road School and at the Park and Recreation department's Safety School program. This past spring we recognized a young girl for using what she learned in the program.

Amelie was walking to school when she was approached by a man looking to donate pop tops to the school. The girl did not know the man and became scared. Recognizing those fears, she ran to school as fast as she could and told her teacher. The police department was called to investigate and was able to locate the man a short time later who lives in the neighborhood and actually had pop tops for the school. It was an error in judgment on his part as he initially thought the girl was a neighbor girl. We're proud of Amelie for realizing the situation didn't seem right to her and telling an adult. Way to go, Amelie!





## CRIME ANALYSIS – CHRONIC NUISANCE UPDATE

In June of 2008, the Town of Menasha Police Department was facing a spike in calls for service; many being repeat calls to the same property for nuisance type of activity. These chronic nuisance calls affect the quality of life in neighborhoods and can include offenses such as loud noise, disorderly people, fighting, damage to property, drug offenses, and the list goes on. The police department began researching this problem and developed a chronic nuisance program and ordinance aimed at not only reducing these calls, but increasing our communication with landlords and property owners and working collaboratively to resolve many of these concerns.



The ordinance allows for three nuisance calls resulting in an arrest or citation on a property within a year. The police department will notify property owners and landlords of these calls and begin working ahead of time to curb future calls. If a property were to receive three such calls, we will meet with the property owner to explain the concern and the need for assistance in combating the problem(s). If the property owner fails to or refuses to provide any assistance, the Town of Menasha can issue a citation for maintaining a public nuisance and bill the property owner for any future nuisance calls to that property.

Since 2008, we have witnessed a tremendous drop in repeat nuisance activity. The program, dubbed “Operation Sweep” was awarded as a finalist for the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police Sir Robert Peel Award. We have also worked with other communities throughout Wisconsin as they look to create a similar program. In addition to working with other law enforcement agencies, we have partnered with the police departments in Neenah and Menasha and along with Rental Finders to host landlord training classes.

Below are some statistics since the creation of the program. The chart on the left is a breakdown of the targeted addresses (2 or more nuisance arrests or 1 drug arrest) since the creation of the ordinance. The chart on the right shows the type of property that had 3 or more nuisance arrests and the amount collected for police services from the property owners.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
<b>Drugs</b>	2	1	5	5	1	6
<b>Nuisance</b>	4	9	7	3	9	8

	Owner Occupied	Rental
<b>Properties with 3 or more arrests/citations</b>	4	2
<b>Costs for services billed</b>	\$608.01	

## TOWN OF MENASHA'S MOST WANTED

### UPDATE

***We profiled Ger Chang last year and he is still on the run. In June, the FBI became involved in the manhunt for Chang. A federal arrest warrant was issued for Chang and the Fugitive Publicity Unit from the FBI Headquarters will be profiling Chang on digital billboards, wanted posters, and television ads.***

On Saturday, August 13, 2011, at 11:40pm, the Town of Menasha Police Department received a report of shots being fired into a crowded nightclub at the Asian Taste Nightclub located at 236 W. Calumet St.

The investigation revealed that an altercation had broken out among two groups of individuals that led to several punches being thrown and the owner of the nightclub being struck with an ashtray.

Someone in the crowd indicated the police were being called and the people involved began to flee the area. As one group left in a vehicle, the passenger leaned out the window and began shooting back at the building.

During this chaotic moment, several bullets struck vehicles in the parking lot and one bullet pierced a 31 year old Appleton man's face. He underwent surgery and spent several days in a local hospital.

Investigators were able to piece this puzzle together and charged two Sheboygan men, ages 18 and 32, for their role in the initial fight and also recovered the getaway vehicle and charged the driver, a 28 year old Sheboygan man, with aiding in the commission of this crime.

Investigators have also identified the shooter in this crime as a 26 year old Sheboygan man, Ger Chang. He also has ties to the Green bay and Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Town of Menasha Police Department.

**Town of Menasha  
Police Department  
WANTED PERSON**



**Name:** Ger Chang  
**Age:** 27  
**Description:** Male, Asian, 5'04", 130 lbs, Black Hair, Brown Eyes  
**Charge:** 1<sup>st</sup> degree reckless injury  
Recklessly causing injury

***The Town of Menasha Police Department currently has over 250 active arrest warrants. These warrants are for traffic and ordinance violations where people have either failed to appear in court or have defaulted on guilty judgments. The town does try to recoup these fines through the State of Wisconsin TRIP (Tax Return Intercept Program). These warrants are also entered into a database should an officer in Wisconsin encounter these people they can be taken into custody.***